

To: Santacroce, Jeffrey[Santacroce.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
From: Brinkhuis, Randall
Sent: Thur 1/23/2014 9:43:25 PM
Subject: FW: [DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB] Chemical information and the Jan 2014 West Virginia Elk River chemical release

Jeff,

Thought you would be interested in this.

Randy

-----Original Message-----

From: Disaster Information Outreach by Librarians [mailto:DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB@LIST.NIH.GOV] On Behalf Of Michael Sholinbeck
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 6:28 PM
To: DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: Re: [DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB] Chemical information and the Jan 2014 West Virginia Elk River chemical release

Thanks for keeping us updated!

I've recently read there are at least 2 additional chemicals involved; see <http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401220031> and <http://blogs.edf.org/health/>.

Also, there has been criticism (from NRDC) about the safe level promoted by CDC:

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/jsass/doing_the_math_on_the_west_vir.html.

-michael

On Wed, Jan 22, 2014 at 2:59 PM, Love, Cindy (NIH/NLM) [E] <lovec@mail.nlm.nih.gov> wrote:

> Dear Colleagues,

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> You may be aware from multiple news sources that little information
> was available about 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol at the time of the
> spill in West Virginia's Elk River earlier this month. Since the
> spill, government and private sector scientists have contributed to
> collecting and verifying information about the chemical. As a result,
> there is now a page on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website
> about the chemical and the methodology used by CDC to develop its recommendations.

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> There is also a new record in the NLM Hazardous Substances Data Bank
> for the chemical 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol, which has a Chemical
> Abstracts Service registry number (CASRN) of 34885-03-5. Other terms
> for the spilled substance are "MCHM" or "crude MCHM" or "4-Methylcyclohexane
methanol."

>

> In some social media and early news reports, the chemical was

> MISIDENTIFIED as Methylcyclohexanol (CASRN: 25639-42-3). This is NOT the correct chemical.

>

> In chemical incidents, it is unusual for little online information to

> be available about a substance. Chemicals can often be readily

> identified using online resources such as TOXNET and WISER. In the

> absence of published information, local and state officials request

> consultation with local, state, federal and industry experts.

> Typically, following such an incident there is immediate, ongoing,

> extensive consultation and communication among responders and experts to determine appropriate actions.

>

> When planning for providing health information following chemical

> incidents, it is critical for institutions and government agencies to

> know who to contact in uncommon situations as well as knowing the

> authoritative published sources of chemical information.

>

> Sources:

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> CDC web page on 2014 West Virginia Chemical Release,

> <http://emergency.cdc.gov/chemical/MCHM/westvirginia2014/index.asp>.

>

> HSDB record for 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol,

> <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/search/r?dbs+hsdb:@term+@DOCNO+8>

> 182

> TOXNET, <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>

> WISER, <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>

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> Submitted by Cindy Love

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> Disaster Information Management Research Center

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> Specialized Information Services Division

>

> National Library of Medicine

>

> National Institutes of Health

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> Bethesda, MD 20892-5467

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> cindy_love@nlm.nih.gov

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> <http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov>

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> *Support for librarians providing disaster information outreach to

> their

> communities.*

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> You are receiving this message as a member of the DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB

> discussion group for librarians, information specialists and others

> interested in disaster information outreach to their communities and

> in responding to information needs for all-hazards preparedness,

> response and recovery.

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> To send a message to all 1100+ list members, please address it to

> DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB@LIST.NIH.GOV.

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> To unsubscribe, send email to listserv@list.nih.gov with "SIGNOFF

> DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB" in the body of the message.

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> The DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB archives are available at

> <https://list.nih.gov/archives/disastr-outreach-lib.html>.

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> You can reach the list moderator at

> DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB-request@list.nih.gov. This forum is provided by

> the Disaster Information Management Research Center, U.S. National

> Library of Medicine.

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